Supplementary Table 1. How to use these theories in study design

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| Theory  | Reflective Questions for Setting Context and Defining Study Direction  | Considerations for Study Design  | Considerations for Sampling | Considerations for Data Collection and Analysis  | Potential Insights in Analysis  | Exemplary Studies  |
| *Personhood*  | What are the dominant ways society assigns value to people, in your study context? What are the pre-existing ideas—or theories— that you already hold about the roles and relationships of patients, clinicians, care partners, and others involved in surgical care? What efforts exist to care for people holistically in surgical care (e.g., for “person-centered” care)? What are considered “basics” of care, and do you know if these match up with patients’ wishes?  | Does your method (e.g., qualitative interviewing) allow participants to express their own perspectives? Do your questions allow you a broader view of what patient(s) might value in surgical care, and where these values come from?  | Does your sample include a range of subject positions (e.g., with regards to age, gender) to explore intersecting social dimensions that shape experience? (purposive sampling)Once you have started to analyze your data, do you have sufficient depth and breadth of participant perspectives to understand the complexity of care experiences and social context? (theoretical sampling) | Does the way you engage with your participants (e.g., interviewing techniques) allow them to bring forward multiple aspects of their identities and perspectives? What do your findings tell you about what your participants need to feel considered or cared for as holistic persons? How are your participants’ needs and wishes met to sustain a sense of value?  | Broader understanding of what helps and hinders patients to feel valued in care encounters.Broader understanding of how patients conceive a sense of self, to better tailor support. | Buch ED. Senses of care: Embodying inequality and sustaining personhood in the home care of older adults in Chicago. American Ethnologist. 2013;40(4):637-650.: Examines how homecare workers sustain the personhood of older adult clients through bodily and emotional care. Leibing A. Divided Gazes: Alzheimerʹs Disease, the Person within, and Death in Life. In: Leibing A, Cohen L, eds. Thinking About Dementia. Culture, Loss, and the Anthropology of Senility. Rutgers University Press; 2006:240-268.: Examines shifting understandings of dementia and how dementia care practices reflect particular social ideas about personhood. |
| *Interdependence*  | What are common social ideas about “dependence”, “independence” that may be informing how your study population are socially perceived and treated in care environments (e.g., in surgical medicine, in homecare, generally)? What are the theories you already hold about successful surgical practice and/or patient care? What are the care relationships that people in your study population may already be part of? Are these relationships recognized in clinical practice, and if so, how?  | Who are the best parties to engage in research, recognizing people are always already in relation to one another? What is your unit of analysis (e.g., an individual, an individual and care partners, a community…)? Does engaging with these participants allow you to fully explore your study question(s)? | Does your unit of analysis allow you to fully explore your study question? Does it require any changes (e.g., from interviewing one person to a dyad)? (purposive sampling)Once you have started to analyze your data, whose perspectives or experiences are unaccounted for based on participants’ accounts of care? (theoretical sampling) | In data collection, are you attuned to ways that participants describe their supportive care networks? What do your findings tell you about how your participants are sustained in relation to other people and communities? Are there ways that your findings contradict or confirm dominant understandings of “dependence” or “independence” in your research field and/or social context of your study?  | Improved understanding of the complexities of care relationships, and who is involved.Improved understanding of how to tailor care conversations and support decision-making processes.  | Kittay EF. Love’s Labor: Essays on Women, Equality, and Dependency. Routledge; 1999.: Foundationally examines interdependence in the context of care work, especially the care women provide to children. Piepzna-Samarasinha LL. Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice. Arsenal Pulp Press; 2018.: Uses interdependence to explore how people with disabilities seek to create care relationships that recognize them as participants and meet their own care needs. |